

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 5 and 13 to clarify terms and claim language that may be confusing; claims 17-22 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13 and 14 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claim 6 was objected to because of an informality. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 has the language objected to in the rejection. The Applicant has amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informality. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 17-22 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 17-22 have been canceled.

Response to Arguments

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has put forth an argument against a limitation in claim 1 that is not stated accurately, which is somewhat misleading. For example, on page 12, lines 1-6, the Examiner describes an example of the step of transforming and forwarding as being broadly interpreted as "receiving a TCP/IP packet and performing protocol processing on the packet before passing it to the data source." Because of this incomplete reciting of the claim steps, "[T]he claims have been given their broadest interpretation..." might be considered proper. However, the Applicant respectfully submits that the "broad" label as applied to the limitation is inappropriate as the limitation names a specific transformation of one data format into a second data format. The transforming step is the "transformation of a control instruction

into an appropriate session control command,” and the forwarding step is the act of “forwarding the session control command to the data source.” The interpretation of the aforementioned steps should be made with an eye towards transforming a control instruction (that is not readable by a data source) into a control command which is readable by the data source. (see page 14, lines 35-37)

As the claim is broadly interpreted, it is misleading to partially state the limitation and then reject the claim based on the partial reciting of the Applicant's limitation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 17-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wei et al (JMS: A Flexible Collaborative Environment). Claims 3, 11, and 23-31 were canceled in the Applicant's previous response. The Applicant has canceled, without prejudice, claims 17-22. Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 remain. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims.

As previously noted, the Wei reference discloses a system having a central JMS server that is a “core part of the whole system” and keeps track of the system state information (page 198, paragraph 2). All communication between users travels via the JMS server (page 193, paragraph 2, lines 4-5). In the Wei reference, the floor holder (comparable to the Applicant's session controller) sends its messages to the floor controller via the JMS server. The communications between the JMS server, the session controller and the floor controller are indirect. (Fig. 2, page 197 of Wei).

In contrast to the teachings of Wei, the Applicant's invention solves the problem of operating a floor controlling system without a determined central server and without the need to have local copies of the application on each network component. The present invention does not disclose or even require an equivalent to the JMS server.

Unlike the Wei reference the Applicant's disclosure, as claimed, may advantageously be implemented with a single floor controller for a set of computer network components, rather than having a floor manager associated with each user as in Wei (Wei, Fig. 2). In contrast with the Wei reference, by allowing the floor controller to select a network component to control the data source, direct access to the data

source by another network component may be conferred, which allows the conferring network component to leave the session without disruption to the other network components.

The Applicant discloses and claims a floor controller, which is one of a group of network components. The floor controller is claimed as translating session control instructions (which a data source cannot read) into session control commands which the data source can read. This translation step is not disclosed in the Wei reference. The Applicant's present invention discloses the control instructions (not readable) being sent from a selected network component to the floor controller, where the instructions are translated into a command to be sent to the data source. In other words, a first control type/format is sent to the floor controller which sends the instructions in a second format to the data source.

The rejection cites a coupling event at a JMS client of the floor holder as disclosing the translation (transformation) of the instructions into a session control command. The Applicant respectfully submits that the coupling event is not equivalent to translating (transforming) the instructions. The cited portion of Wei discloses results of receiving a coupling event from the floor holder, not the translation (transformation) of instructions. The subject limitations regard changing the format of an instruction to a command so the data source can read and act. Wei does not disclose translating or transforming instructions to commands only what happens when a coupling event occurs. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Wei reference does not disclose or even suggest the translation limitation.

MPEP § 2131 provides:

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claims.

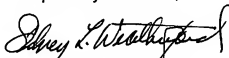
Contrary to the Examiner's statement that all elements are disclosed in the Wei reference, the element regarding "transformation (translation) of the control instruction into an appropriate session control command" is not disclosed. So, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-11, 13 and 14 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

By Sidney L. Weatherford
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